



“A Measure Of Student Opinion”

May 1, 1979



'79 SENIOR CLASS, THE BEST OF TSU

By Jan Parkman



—Photo by Joe Zinn
THE PAST AND THE PRESENT—Founders Day brought together the founders of the Meter and the current staff. Left to right are Dr. George Gore, first journalism teacher and former Dean of Colleges at TSU; Samuel Yette, author of "The Choice" and first editor of the Meter; Jan Parkman, current Meter editor; Mrs. Karen F. Brown, current Meter advisor; and Dr. Robert Hudson, first advisor of the newspaper.

As graduation rolls around the corner, many seniors are not only faced with paying their bills to get out of Tennessee State University, but the realization of where do we go from here. We are no longer in our secure environment of dorm life, work study checks, and monthly checks from relatives.

Some of my peers will be attending graduate studies elsewhere. As for the remaining few, we are faced with a major adjustment. After four years of doing our own thing, we must become a part of the American System, that 9 to 5 job, proving our qualifications to our employers. Some of us will even go through the trauma of receiving those standard rejection letters.

I feel confident that the '79 senior class will make their place in society. We came to TSU in the midst of major merging decisions and marches. We have gone through the problems of Administrator, financial aid, organizations, and our department.

As I leave TSU, I feel that the senior class of '79 has left a heritage in itself to our younger peers.

I am confident that Ronald Ashley will be an asset to the TSU student body. His previous work within the SGA has enhanced his ability to be an excellent President of the SGA for the academic year of 79-80.

The Class of '79 left TSU as a historical black institution of higher learning. How will your class leave TSU?

As I write my last editorial to the TSU family, I can't help but reminisce over my year as editor of "The Meter". I have thoroughly enjoyed being editor of our campus paper. I must admit the Meter wasn't the greatest but it is a start. One of my greatest accomplishments is, I can honestly state that I have established a paper on TSU's campus forever.

A zillion thanks goes out to our advisor, Mrs. Brown, for working diligently with a staff as ours. Her time and efforts have shown a general concern about the Meter and TSU family. Without her, we could not have established a printer, revisions and a paper.

I also praise Essien Essien, assistant editor. Essien has been an asset to our newspaper. His research and ability to cope with the problems of a struggling newspaper have been greatly appreciated.

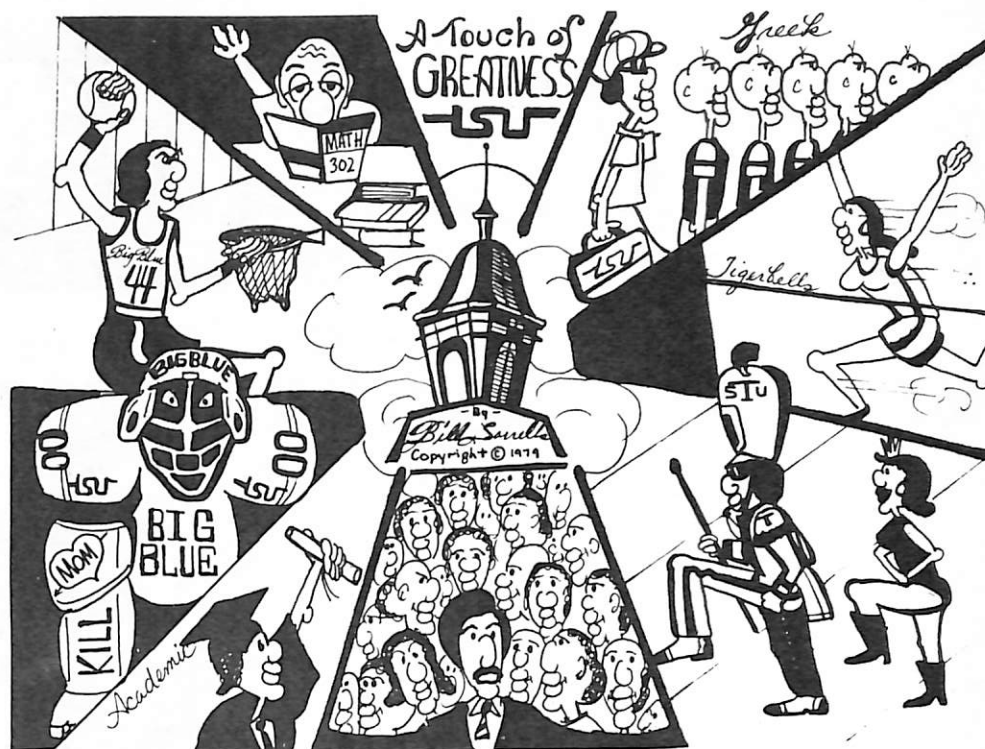
Shelton Tucker, the business manager, successfully carried and transacted all ads for the paper. His work as a reporter and business manager has established a good rapport with the customers for this year and the academic year of 79-80.

Bill Sorrels, staff artist, has a remarkable talent in editorial art. Bill has carried out all requests for any specific drawing, and has shown a general concern for the Meter.

The Meter will excel next year with editor, Shelton Tucker. I am confident that Shelton will carry out a successful weekly paper.

Next year, requisitions and proposals are in the making for a campus paper weekly. TSU is a good black institution with many objectives for successful endeavors.

TSU is what you make it. As I leave TSU as a black institution, I only pray that the student body will continue to stand up to the high standards of "THE TOUCH OF GREATNESS". May God be with the TSU family forever.



ROUNDING IT

ALL UP

By Essien Essien



The 78-79 school year was somehow a year of turmoil for TSU. As a junior and the associate editor of the Meter, I was exposed to many critical situations which did not only prepare for a challenging future but brought me in face with the scaring realities of campus life and specifically a black institution in a white man's land.

To me, the elapsing 78-79 school year will spell the end of my writing career as a student—a move to give others a chance.

Writing for a campus newspaper could be demanding most especially when an individual is committed to exercising his duties assiduously. Quite often, many student writers in their senior year are often faced with a dilemma in attempting to assuage their readers and classroom instructors. Other than that, the senior year is a period of personal decision which privilege individuals to think seriously about graduate education or any career as may interest them.

By the end of May, 78-79 school year will elapse into history. From the foundation of the new TSU recreation complex to the decision of George Peabody Board of Trustees to vote in favor of a merger with Vanderbilt U, have ranged lots of activities, happenings, achievements, failures, victories, appointments, dismissals, you name more.

"Hence, on the banks of Cumberland, is the perfect example of how other institutions can provide quality programs with limited resources," infers Harold Jackson on "Excellent in Academic," an article which appeared in Cupolian of fall 1978. So it goes without saying that in spite of an increased enrollment of 10% and the approval of \$5.6 million budget, for the construction of on-campus facilities, the struggle continues.

Too often the Meter has been criticized for its deep concern with the school cafeteria services,

and the items on its menu. As the Meter relaxed effort on reporting the cafeteria's woes, many people were convinced that the services had seen improvements. But a graduate student who came to TSU from an all-white college pointed out that we cannot assess the quality of the cafeteria's services without matching it with what obtains in non-black colleges. He went on to say that it is because many black colleges have cultivated the taste for poor food, perhaps, that is why efforts have been relaxed on the striving to improve the quality of food. Can we afford to go on that way in 79-80?

What is difficult to explain at TSU is why many buildings remain locked for most hours of the day. Take the Student Union Building for example. By the very name SUB, many students understand a student center where studying could be done, music heard, and games played. Indeed, it is an irony that the SUB remains locked sometimes after 7:45 and maybe without the cafeteria eating hours commencing at 7:15 it would remain locked for most of the morning. However, we have to learn from our experience. At TSU the inadequacies of a lot of opportunities, facilities are because there is no unflinching demand for them. Once upon a sunny Saturday morning a security and safety staff denied knowledge of the SUB west wing key. Yet an executive of the SGA claimed the security department has a key to that building. The week following, faced with the task of distributing the papers, I called on a security officer to let me into the building. On showing up he said, "I told you we ain't got the sub key, but where you from, the Indies?" "Nope, New Jersey," I echoed, "but you don't act like." But one can infer from the dialogue the temerity that characterize many students and officials here.

So we are at the verge of ending the Spring of 78-79. New student leaders have been selected and the house has been rearranged. Where do we go from here? If the society is honest about social equality then it must start from the campus. If TSU is blessed with equal opportunities like other non-black colleges, in 79-80, all will say, TSU has come to stay.

CAMPUS LEADERS 1979-80

SENIOR CLASS

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary
Miss Senior

Jacqueline Frazier
Gwinnett McGhee
Michelle Harvey
Debbie Jones
Kelli Harris

JUNIOR CLASS

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary
Miss Junior

Iris Jones
Tonia Estes
Anita Ford
(To be elected)
Franeco Cheeks

SOPHOMORE CLASS

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary
Miss Sophomore

Gloria Werthing
Ingrid Smith
(To be elected)
(To be elected)
Deborah Gant

SGA

President
Vice President
Miss TSU

Ronald Ashley
Wanda Moses
Chandra Norman

EDITORS

Meter
Assistant

Shelton Tucker
Tangy Morgan

HUMPHRIES DISPUTES ARTICLE IN BLACK COLLEGIAN By Shelton Tucker

Since the court ordered desegregation of public facilities of higher education has threatened the future of traditionally black institutions throughout the United States, the decision to merge TSU with UTN has often been criticized as a faulty step in preserving the future of TSU as a black institution. Although the Judge Frank Gray's decision to let TSU be the surviving institution brought about a sense of triumph within the TSU community, this sigh of relief and feeling of accomplishment has been criticized by many.

An article, "A SLOW FADE TO WHITE: The Destruction of Public Black Colleges," by Tony Brown, published in the March/April 1979 issue of *Black Collegian*, stated that President Frederick S. Humphries was a victim of "unconscious suicide" by merging TSU with UTN.

Tony Brown, dean of the School of Communications at Howard University and host of the nationally syndicated television program "Tony Brown's Journal", accused President Humphries of putting his "understandable but blind trust" in the NAACP and Legal Defense and Education Fund (LDF), who filed charges to integrate TSU, thus "destroying the black institution".

Describing the merger as a "tragic case", Brown disagreed with Humphries' opinion that the merger was preserving and "enhancing" TSU. After quoting Roy S. Nicks, Chancellor of the State Board of Regents of Tennessee, reporting that the Board of Regents is going to control TSU, Brown concluded, "This merger is the cruellest irony of all. The very people who should understand the most, namely, college presidents, often pull the trigger that blows away black colleges."

However, at a recent interview, President Humphries strongly disagreed with the accusations made by Tony Brown. According to Humphries, "The black heritage of TSU is not lost. However, whether it will be maintained is up to the students." The biggest threat he finds to losing TSU's black identity is the steady decrease of black students in black colleges. Just returning from an extensive recruiting tour within the State of Tennessee, Humphries said the job of recruiting students to black universities is difficult. "So many negative things are being written and said about black institutions that it is hard to get students to enroll," he said. "Many of our black students are enrolling in white universities."

Humphries stated that statistics have shown an increase in black students enrolling in institutions of higher education; however, there is a steady decrease in black students enrolling in black institutions.

"Until recently, graduates of black universities would often send their children to their alma mater," stated Humphries, "but the trend has drastically changed."

When questioning Humphries as to whether TSU will be in control of the merger situation and its future he replied, "I don't have my hands tied behind my back, and neither do the students because Tennessee State is a university known for doing something about its circumstances."

PLAYERS GUILD WINS AWARDS

The T.E. Poag Players Guild won four awards at the annual meeting of the National Association of Dramatic and Speech Arts recently. The association met April 4-6 at the Playboy Towers in Chicago. The meeting was hosted by Kennedy-King College. TSU students competed against students from 26 other colleges and universities.

Lydia Williams won the award for best actress in one act play. She was in the scene "Chicago Visitors" from the play, "California Suite." Viola Camble won third place as student director. Sheila Johnson won third place in extemporaneous speaking and Robert Douglas won \$50 as the second place prize for playwriting.

Others who attended the meeting were Aretha Shardon, Johnny Hollingshed, Washington Dobbins, Mr. Herman Brady and Mr. W. Dury Cox II.

Mrs. Sandra Holt joined the group for two performances, April 11 at the modern theater facilities of Hamilton High School in Memphis. A 9 a.m. performance was viewed by 2,000 junior and senior high school students. A 1 p.m. performance was attended by 1,200 elementary students. The visit was sponsored by the Memphis chapter of the TSU Alumni Association.

BERNARD "SPIDER" HARRISON By Wendell Burden

Becoming a big radio disc jockey is the dream of many mass communication students here at TSU. Being a radio personality requires a lot of work and has its ups and downs. Bernard "Spider" Harrison of Nashville's 15 WLAC has been through it all, and has become one of the finest disc jockeys in the country. While his career in radio is continuing to rise, "Spider" is attending TSU part time to finish his requirements for a degree in communications.

Entertainment was in Spider's blood. He was born in Hempsted, Long Island, about 30 miles out of New York City. With popular entertainers and the nation's number one radio stations being in New York, Spider was exposed to quite a bit as a youngster and this influenced his decision to get into radio. As a 16 year old sophomore at Hempsted High School, Spider was influenced greatly by a young promoter named Troy Stevens. This promoter went from state to state in the east doing concerts and Spider would be with him hanging posters and doing other things to help Stevens. This is where he was introduced to entertainers such as Frankie Avalon, Little Anthony and the Imperials, Adam Wade and other people of this type. Asking Spider how he specifically got interested in radio, he said, "I saw my first disc jockey in New Haven, Conn. and I had a chance to answer the request line for him. I really liked it, and I kept watching him, and I said to myself, 'Wow, this is what I want to do.'" So radio hit my mind when I was 16, watching someone else. I didn't really get motivated into doing it until I was about 22 years old."

Also in high school, Spider acquired his unique nickname as being a skinny little halfback on the football team. While watching him run, the coach would say, "Go Spider, go Spider." So the name "Spider" stuck and when he decided to get into radio, he kept the name.

After graduating from high school, he worked for awhile and then attended C. W. Post College in Brookville, Long Island. He then had the chance to do his own radio show called "Introduction to Soul." He took the format he produced right into his current radio show, Soul Countdown. Spider didn't finish college. He headed westward for Indianapolis, Indiana. It was there that he found his first real job in the radio business. With the New York experience he had, Spider stepped right in and became a success, and after just six months of work he was promoted to program director. In other words, he was the boss! Spider's career was in full swing now and grew tremendously during his four year stay at Indianapolis. While working for the black owned WTLC, Spider was exposed to many professional people such as Cycely Tyson and numerous professional athletes.

He was making a trip to Atlanta, Georgia when he decided to stop in Nashville. He visited WLAC,

and just a year later he was called and asked to come to Nashville to work for WLAC. Billboard Magazine had just bought WLAC, and they remembered Spider from Indianapolis. Spider had come up with a proposal to do a pilot for a countdown show. Billboard Magazine liked the proposal, and Harrison was introduced to syndicated radio programming. He is currently doing Billboard's "Soul Countdown" which can be heard in over 25 U.S. cities, and in Uruguay, Nicaragua and the Philippines. Along with this, Spider can be heard nightly on Nashville's WLAC from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. With WLAC's high frequency, 27 states can tune Spider Harrison in, and this perhaps has made him one of the top radio personalities in the country. Indianapolis native James Tucker had this to say about Spider. "Everybody in Indianapolis remembers Spider, and everyone missed him when he left. It wasn't uncommon for someone to say, 'Do you remember Spider Harrison? He was a bad DJ.'"

How does Spider react to it all? He had this to say. "I was a bad boy when I was young. It wasn't always goodie goodie, but the hard work is starting to pay off. I've paid my dues."

"Even at this point I feel it's necessary to go to school to stay ahead, because so many younger guys are coming along and I'm getting older, and if you don't watch out they'll knock you right out of your seat. Younger guys want it just as bad as I do, so the only way you can compete is to go to school, learn, and get a degree."

"Radio! Radio is everything to me," he said. "I eat it, sleep it and just really love it. I date a little, I see quite a few friends, and I eventually will get married, but right now I want to see how far I can go in radio and how far I can build up my career." Spider's other goals include getting his degree, so he'll have something to fall back on, master syndication, staying in entertainment, owning two or three radio stations, pushing "Soul Countdown" to the top and making it everlasting, and making as much money as he can and sharing it. Sound like a lot of goals? Not for Spiderman. "I want to continue to put out that positive vibe to show younger guys you can have fun but you'll have to have education to relate to the big time, because the big time is education!!" A goal and a purpose are the essentials for success says the Spider. Harrison had a younger brother with whom he was very close to die in Vietnam and this inspired Spider to do a lot of things. "My brother believed in this country," Spider said. "He believed in the flag, and because he died for this country, nobody is going to deny me anything."

Spider's hobbies are the radio and TV industry, and watching it grow. He can also be spotted downtown at the YMCA playing an occasional game of basketball. For Spiderman Harrison, being a success is the only thing!!

TSU THE METER "A Measure Of Student Opinion"

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